

A meeting of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2002, in the Lower Level Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

PRESENT:

Leonard Bertin, Chair
Cynthia Buchanan, Member
Angela Done, Member
Theodora House, Member
Pauline Manetta, Alternate
Dick Kuschinsky, Member
Dorothy Pietron, Member
Jayshree Shah, Alternate (arrived 7:20 p.m.)

NOT PRESENT:

Susan Burt, Alternate
Kul Gauri, Member
Nancy Johnson, Member
John Rodgers, Member
Nada Raheb, Student Representative

ALSO PRESENT:

Mitch Grusnick, Staff
Kathy Czarnecki, Staff

ITEM C - VISITORS, DELEGATIONS AND GENERAL PUBLIC

The following members of the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens were present:

Jane Crowe	Jo Rhoads
Merrill Dixon	JoAnn Thompson
Ed Forst	Bill Weisgerber
David Ogg, Chair	

Members of the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens were present to discuss concerns with respect to the Community Center. References were made to the October 9, 2002 letter from David Ogg addressed to City Council and management's response to City Council dated October 14, 2002.

The major concerns of both Committees are: lack of handicap parking; need for handrails on both sides of the hallway; high costs of food, coffee and bus services; need for larger restrooms; and lack of water fountains within lobby area.

Discussion commenced with concerns for additional handicap parking spaces and the distances from the handicap parking spaces to the building entrance. Grusnick noted that Phase II would result in additional handicap parking spaces.

The Committees were assured that all ADA guidelines and state requirements were followed with respect to providing the required handicap parking spaces. Both Committees expressed their desire that handicap parking spaces above the minimum requirement be provided. Both Committees agree that some of the current green space could be turned into additional handicap parking spaces.

Discussion continued with respect to the need of handrails on both sides of the hallway. It was agreed to bring attention to Carol Anderson, Parks & Recreation Director, the difference between a chair rail and a handrail, in that a handrail offers balancing support for a person with a disability and/or a senior citizen.

Discussion followed about water fountains being located only in the area that persons with memberships can access. It was noted that water dispensers have been provided within the lobby area until the completion of Phase II, but that the taste of that water is similar to the paper cup in which it is served.

The Committees agreed that several of their concerns have already been addressed by management; i.e., fabric panels have been placed in the lunchroom to alleviate noise, the heating system has been corrected, scooters are now available at each entrance, and a few additional handicap parking spaces have been added.

MOTION

It was moved by Kuschinsky, seconded by Buchanan, to create and provide a list of recommendations by both Committees to City Council with respect to the Community Center, and to further request a joint meeting between the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens and City Council to discuss such recommendations, and that such meeting be held at an agreed upon date and time during the month of January.

AMENDED MOTION

It was moved by Bertin, seconded by House, to amend the motion on the floor to request such joint meeting to be held at City Council's earliest convenience with follow-up meetings to be scheduled if necessary.

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

MOTION

It was moved by Bertin, seconded by Kuschinsky, that management install safety handrails in the Community Center on both sides of the hall for use by senior citizens, persons with disabilities and others, and that such safety handrails be installed from the Lobby 1309 through the Corridor 14 C-1 to the Restrooms 1522 and 1523.

Motion carried unanimously.

Bertin encouraged the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens to address these concerns with Carol Anderson at their next Committee meeting (Thursday, November 7) and to be specific as to the location of the handrails, location of additional handicap parking, and the need to provide a paved and/or asphalt sidewalk from the back lot to the Community Center entrance.

Bertin suggested the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities cannot address concerns on the high costs of coffee, food and bus services.

There was a short discussion about the senior citizens newsletter. Bertin suggested that Mary McGinnis look into the possibility of the members receiving the senior citizens newsletter in their Committee meeting packet.

Rhoads reminded Grusnick that she would like a copy of the Committee's monthly meeting minutes mailed to her.

ITEM B - APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 2, 2002 MEETING

MOTION

Moved by Kuschinsky, seconded by Done, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2002 meeting as published.

Motion carried unanimously.

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ITEM F - OLD BUSINESS

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Attendance at City Council Meetings

Buchanan agreed to attend the next City Council Regular Business meeting scheduled on November 18, 2002.

Shah agreed to attend the City Council Regular Business meeting scheduled on December 2, 2002.

ITEM D - NEW BUSINESS

Regularly Scheduled January Meeting

It was discussed and agreed by the Committee to cancel the January 1, 2003 meeting because it falls on a City holiday. It was further decided to leave the January meeting date open for the requested joint meeting with City Council and the Advisory Committee for Senior Citizens.

MOTION

Moved by Pietron, seconded by Kuschinsky, to cancel the January 1, 2003 Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities regular meeting because it falls on a City holiday.

Motion carried unanimously.

City of Warren Disabilities Fair

Bertin reported that he attended the Disabilities Fair sponsored by the City of Warren in October. There were approximately 15 booths at the fair with a variety of vendors, both non-profit and profit such as Binson and Wright & Fillipis. Bertin had a collection of informational handouts with him.

Bertin announced that he has spoken with the Troy Daze Committee and they are in favor of having a disabilities booth at the next Troy Daze Festival on the Thursday evening that is reserved for adults with special needs. He mentioned that the Michigan Advocacy and Protection Services is also interested in having a booth. Bertin indicated the cost of the booths would be very minimal. Paul Buscemi volunteered to provide food for this event.

Additionally, Bertin reported that there have been discussions with Tony Fillipis who is looking for a venue for a wheelchair and hand cycle race. It appears that the Troy Daze Committee is wholeheartedly in favor of this concept to complement its 5K and 10K races.

Bertin asked if there would be any volunteers from the Committee to work with Troy Daze and other vendors to plan these special events. Manetta, House, Don and Shah responded positively.

International Day of Disabled Persons

Bertin read the United Nations General Assembly proclamation of October 14, 1992 proclaiming that December 3 be observed every year as the International Day of Disabled Persons. Bertin asked for a motion to request adoption of this proclamation by City Council to recognize December 3, 2002 as International Day of Disabled Persons.

MOTION

Moved by Bertin, seconded by Kuschinsky, that City Council pass a resolution proclaiming December 3, 2002 as International Day of Disabilities Persons; such proclamation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM E - REGULAR BUSINESS

ITEM G - INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Bertin circulated two recent articles that he wrote. "Scrutinize Candidates and Then Make Your Vote Count Nov. 5" was published in the October 24th edition of the *Observer & Eccentric*. ~~"What Family Caregivers Think"~~ "Self-Conscious?" was published in the Fall 2002 issue of the *MS Connection*.

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Done questioned if there is a directory published for persons with disabilities and senior citizens. Grusnick acknowledged he was aware of a directory published at one time, but has not seen a directory for quite some time.

ITEM H - ADJOURN

Moved by Kuschinsky, seconded by House, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.